

## PENSION OWNERS.

### Inquiries Answered and Suggestions Made.

L. A. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.—It is not apparent why an honorable discharge has been refused if once properly made out and ready for issuance. If there is a charge of desertion standing on the roll at the War Department, it may possibly be removed under the provisions of the act of March 2, 1889. There will be no expense in the matter beyond the cost of execution of papers and an attorney's fee, if you employ an attorney.

Mrs. M. S., Norfolk, Va.—The pension laws make no provision for brothers and sisters of deceased soldiers and sailors, except those who were under 16 at the date of death of the deceased. Application must be filed before the claimants become 16.

J. U., Togus, Me.—It is impossible to say how high a rating a pensioner now drawing, say \$10 under the act of June 27, 1890, would receive under the general pension law. Under the act of 1890, though the rates are lower, all disabilities are taken into consideration, whether due to the service or not, and disability incident to age is also considered; whereas under the general law only disabilities proven due to the service and line of duty are taken into consideration. All evidence filed in the Pension Bureau is preserved there, and can be referred to in any future claim filed by the pensioner or his heirs. Unless you can furnish very strong evidence in support of your claim, claim, medical evidence in the service or at discharge in the absence of a record of the disability at the War Department, it would not be advisable for you to undertake to prove a general law pension claim on the war of rebellion at this late date. It seems to be considered by the Pension Bureau that persons entitled to pension will apply for the same with reasonable promptness, and that the longer he waits the stronger the presumption that his claim is not good.

O. B. J., Nashville, Ill.—Under the general law, the pension is for the widow of the soldier or the soldier himself.

H. B., Indianapolis, Iowa.—You perceive that the Pension Bureau exercises the right to revise or wholly reject the reports of Examining Surgeons. As the Pension Bureau appears to have rejected your claim, notwithstanding the ratings given at various times by Examining Surgeons, probably your appeal will meet with favor.

Ex-Prisoner.—It was probably a mistake of the Pension Bureau in sending a blank for you to make application under the act of 1890 as amended by the act of May 8, 1900.

## DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

### PART PENSION TITLE, DESERTED WIFE—ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.

In the cases of Henry N. Rothery and James J. Richards, Assistant Secretary Campbell, Sept. 5 and 10, 1900, held that applications for part pension were not valid and could not properly be considered if filed within six months after the date of the act, March 3, 1899, authorizing payment to the applicant and children of invalid pensioners. The reason of this is that the law is prospective and not retroactive, and a period of desertion prior to the passage of the act cannot be considered, as it must be shown that a state of desertion has existed for at least six months since the passage of the act and before the filing of the application. In the cases referred to, the wife-claimants filed applications before six months after March 3, 1899, and their applications were allowed and part-pensions paid them, but it is held that these payments must now be refunded to the pensioners.

The decisions also lay down the rule that the desertion must be actual, through the willful absence of the pensioner, contrary to the wish of the wife. In the cases referred to it appears that the pensioners' wives refused to live with them or to allow them to act as pensioners. It is held, does not constitute desertion on the part of the pensioners.

REMARRIAGE AND DIVORCE—PENSION TITLE.—In the pension case of the widow of Samuel B. Kirkland, the claimant admitted remarriage subsequent to the soldier's death, but proved a divorce "from the bonds of matrimony" from second husband. The validity of her second marriage was not questioned by the court and appears to have been entirely valid.

The decision (Ass't Secretary Campbell, Aug. 24, 1900) holds that a claimant entered into a valid marriage contract with Jackson she effectively destroyed, in the eyes of the law, her status as the widow of Kirkland, and no claim in any State could restore her to her former position as widow and rights as the widow of Kirkland.

Claimant is now a femme sole; she is neither widow nor wife. She is a divorced woman, and can obtain no more rights under the pension law than the widow of Kirkland can under the common law of her State. Her status as widow was destroyed by her own act. The law destroyed her status as the wife of Jackson.

This decision reaffirms the long-settled doctrine that has governed pension practice, that unless the divorce shows and declares the remarriage null and void from the beginning the widow's pension status is not restored by a divorce after remarriage.

LINE OF DUTY—PRESUMPTION.—In the pension case of William D. Mitchell (deceased), it is held (Ass't Secretary Campbell, Sept. 10, 1900) that "When prior soundness is shown, and a reasonable degree of proof that the injury was sustained in the service is furnished, there being no evidence to the contrary, it raises a presumption that it was incurred outside the line of duty, and such injury is shown to have existed at discharge, it will be presumed that the injury was incurred in line of duty."

In a former decision in the case (July 14, 1899) the Department held: "To establish the incidence of injury in the service and line of duty, the evidence of a record there should be presented, as a rule, the testimony of persons who were present when the injury was received. There are, however, circumstances under which this rule may properly be ignored. For instance, where the command to which the soldier was attached was in action at the time of the injury, it would be properly in accordance with good practice and in harmony with the spirit of the pension laws to presume that an injury of the nature described in this case, at such a time and under such circumstances, was received in the line of duty, even though there were no eye-witnesses to the occurrence. In such a case, when the operations of the command to which the soldier was attached were confined to a part of the country where the conditions of war did not exist, acting as the agents of a State, executing a military governing the draft in a peaceful community, where no actual conflict with the common enemy could take place, line of duty cannot be presumed, except upon the unqualified and direct testimony of eye-witnesses or record."

The Department, by way of comment on this, says: "This Department has never attempted, unless inadvertently so, as was done in the present instance, to lay down any specific rule as to what kind or class of evidence is necessary in order to prove service incident to disabilities in all cases. What might be considered proof in one case might not be so considered in another. Everything depending upon the surrounding conditions and circumstances coupled always with the fact that a case should be proved by the highest class of evidence that the alleged incidence is susceptible of. If one alleges honorable discharge, it should be proved by record evidence. If one alleges hospital treatment

## REUNIONS.

### Meetings of Survivors of the Great Conflict.

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"Motion sustained and action reversed."

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Texas Veterans Believe Themselves Entitled, and Will Urge Action by Congress.

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The late storm at Galveston may cause some to think that the site we propose is an unsafe one. In regard to that I will say that Galveston is a beautiful city, and the whole country back of the bluff on the entire shores of the island. Corpus Christi the Gulf is 20 miles distant. The three large islands, St. Joseph, Mustang and Pack Island, which are 40 or 50 feet above the water of the Gulf and two or more miles wide, lie between the Gulf and Corpus Christi Bay. The site is quite healthy, and the western shore opposite the proposed site of a Home, and is not more than 14 feet in depth in its main waters. The bluff rises 35 or 40 feet above the waters of the bay, and the whole country back of the bluff is the same height or higher, so that there is no possible chance for any such calamity as that which befell Galveston.

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## LADIES OF THE G.A.R.

### National Affairs as Viewed by the Corresponding Secretary.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Through the columns of your paper I wish to send an open letter to the Ladies of the G. A. R., telling them that we have gained that for which we have waited so long, our lawful and legal right to stand side by side with our very own, the Grand Army of the Republic, the National Encampment in Chicago, Geo. Leo Rassieur came to our headquarters the evening before the opening session of our Convention and said: "Tomorrow an honor is conferred upon you, and I will ask that you may be obligated as a member of your Order."

When the announcement was made in the G. A. R. Encampment that he had been elected Commander-in-Chief, he, with Past Commander-in-Chief W. C. Johnson and the Committee on Greeting from the G. A. R., came into our convention and asked to be obligated, saying he proposed to us where we belonged, standing on the same level with him. Sisters, can you imagine what a proud and happy moment it was for us? We have been so patiently waiting for our own to come to us. It was an impressive sight when the highest officer in the G. A. R., with his comrades, stood on the platform and welcomed heads took the obligation. Every sister in the hall, with hands in proper position, renewed the obligation with him. As soon as the ceremony was over, a comrade, a member of our Order, said: "A few years ago you were almost crushed by the falling of a brick house upon you. Now you stand on the same platform. Sister, this means work for us. We must try and pay off a little more of the interest on the great debt we owe to the G. A. R. We can't live on life long enough to pay the principal."

In looking over the Journal of the Thirty-third Encampment I find this report from one of our comrades, a sister, who writes: "There is a Ladies of the G. A. R. Circle, but we have no official report from it. Sisters, let the members of the G. A. R. know that you are there and are Circles are organized. Let our own Commander-in-Chief that we are deserving his favor and commendation; let us so work that our National President may have a grand report. What I am saying is to let the world know what we are doing. We for years have been doing a grand work, but we have modestly kept in the background. Now the time has come for us to be placed right in the eye of our great Grand Army of the Republic—NETHER GUNLOCK, National Corresponding Secretary, Ladies of the G. A. R., 843 West Adams street, Chicago, Ill."

Chicago Ladies of the G.A.R. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I am always anxious to see our beloved Order receive due recognition, and I shall continue to address the columns of your paper, although I no longer National Press Correspondent.

I do not see any news from Chicago. The work of the Circles here is going on. The members are being added to our rolls at every meeting. James A. Sexton Circle, 43, added 20 members last quarter. It gave a special entertainment for the benefit of Galveston sufferers, and sent \$40 to the Department of the G. A. R. Texas, to be used for our comrades and their families in that district who might need our aid.

Circle gave a delightful card party Oct. 2 and a raffle the following evening that netted \$25, which will be used in caring for our "veteran band" the coming Winter.

The Department Commander of Illinois Judge Longenecker, recently lost a lovely daughter. We deeply sympathize with him and his wife.

One of our lovely daughters, Miss Jennie Flager, was married Oct. 14 to Mr. Chas. Longfield. Her mother is a prominent member of our Order, and will no doubt be our next Department Commander. The wedding was solemnized under a canopy of flags and bunting, and the bride has the best wishes from the "Ladies of the G. A. R." of Chicago.

I cannot refrain from reference to our Women's Soldiers' Home in Chicago. It is in the most promising condition. Its President is Mrs. Agnes J. Winslow, Past National President of our Order, and the Chairman of Relief and Management of the Home is Comrade E. Powers. The Home is intended for the infirm comrades of the G. A. R. who are unable to leave their homes. We have 23 inmates now supported entirely by our efforts. Each Circle helps, and we hope to soon have the work and care of more and more every year. Write us for more information. Press Correspondent for Col. James A. Sexton Circle, 43, Ladies of the G. A. R.

Col. L. 24 Ill. L. A., at Chicago. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: During the National Encampment, after 35 years of separation, the following members of the G. A. R. met at a banquet at the Briggs House, where, after partaking of the many dainties the elaborate table d'hôte, retired to the billiard room, where old acquaintances and reciting many incidents of the war of '61-'65: J. B. Moore, Geneva Lake, Wis.; C. H. Felton, 2429 N. Wells street, Chicago; C. E. Starnes, 6015 Monroe avenue, Chicago; John F. Ryan, Centre avenue and Van Buren street, Chicago; Allen Reynolds, 480 N. Dearborn street, Chicago; John Fitzpatrick, 433 Calumet street, Chicago; John Colton, 6330 30th Morgan street, Chicago; J. B. Peters, 303 Grand avenue, Chicago; A. M. Forbes, Chicago; Louis Schaefer, 24 Lane place, Chicago; Chas. Reed, 134 E. Adams street, Chicago; S. C. Goe, 1000 N. D. Chicago; Geo. W. Brown, 1000 N. D. Chicago; G. A. Gager, Oelwein, Iowa; A. Hill, Hawkeye, Iowa; W. B. Brown, Urbana, Ill.; M. B. Mann, Pinckneyville, Ill.; S. C. Heister, Chicago; H. R. Heisterberger, Polo, Ill.; Dr. Geo. Dale, Iowa; Lieut. Luke Hillside, Mich.; A. D. Young, Wakefield, Kas.; Robert H. Hunsdale, Jefferson, Wis.; H. M. Fox, Hinsdale, Ill.; A. T. Burdick, 1618 E. 15th street, New York, N. Y.; Wm. Howard, Sharpburg, Ill.; Isaac Earl, Pontiac, Ill.; A. F. Dunlap, Soldiers' Home, Danville, Ill.

The following officers were elected: C. H. Felton, President; John F. Ryan, Vice President; C. F. Smale, Secretary; Allen Reynolds, Treasurer; Dr. Geo. Dale, Medical Director; C. F. Smale, Michigan avenue, corner Lake street, Chicago, Ill.

Idaho State Soldiers' Home Destroyed by Fire. The Idaho State Soldiers' Home, in the valley, two miles from Boise, Idaho, was destroyed by fire on the evening of Oct. 9. The home, built by the Government, was a fine structure, supposed to be the finest of its kind in the West. The loss is estimated at about \$35,000, with an insurance of \$25,000.

The origin of the fire is not known. Fires were discovered in the second story shortly after the evening meal, when Commandant Amies ordered out the fire brigade. The fire was soon under control, but when the fire department responded the flames were beyond control. All that now remains of this beautiful home are the blackened walls. This home was built in 1894.

Suggests Permanent Encampment Place. Comrade C. W. Cook, Grinnell, Iowa, suggests that the Grand Army fix upon some central point and hold the National Encampment there each year. He believes Chicago would be the most suitable place. He would like the views of other comrades.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN. I have discovered a positive cure for all female troubles and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any other disease. It is a simple, safe, and reliable remedy for women, such as leucorrhea, displacement of the uterus, and all other female troubles. It is a box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address: Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 113, Kokomo, Ind.

## CURES WEAK MEN FREE.

### Send Name and Address To-day--You Can Have It Free and be Strong and Vigorous for Life.

## INSURES LOVE AND A HAPPY HOME.

me up. I am just as vigorous as when a boy, and you cannot tell how happy I am."

"Dear Sir:—Your method worked beautifully. Results were exactly what I needed. Strength and vigor have completely returned, and I am entirely satisfied."

"Dear Sir:—Yours was received, and I had no trouble in making use of the receipt as directed. The result was exactly what I needed. I am greatly improved in strength and vigor."

All correspondence is strictly confidential, mailed in plain sealed envelope. The receipt is free for the asking, and he wants every man to have it.

How many men may quickly cure himself after suffering from nervous weakness, loss of vitality, varicose veins, and restore the organs to strength and vigor. Simply send your name and address to Dr. L. W. Knapp, 130 W. Big, Detroit, Mich., and he will gladly send the free receipt with full directions so that any man may easily cure himself at home. This is certainly a most generous offer, and the following extracts taken from his daily mail show what men think of his generosity:

"Dear Sir:—Please accept my sincere thanks for the receipt you have sent me. I have used it and feel that it is a most generous offer, and the following extracts taken from his daily mail show what men think of his generosity:

"I do not see any news from Chicago. The work of the Circles here is going on. The members are being added to our rolls at every meeting. James A. Sexton Circle, 43, added 20 members last quarter. It gave a special entertainment for the benefit of Galveston sufferers, and sent \$40 to the Department of the G.